

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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BISCHOFF'S BILL TO PROTECT HUNTERS' RIGHTS PASSES OUT OF HOUSE

INDIANAPOLIS – A constitutional amendment co-authored by State Rep. Bob Bischoff (D-Lawrenceburg) which protects the rights of Hoosiers to hunt, fish, and harvest game was successfully passed out of the House on Tuesday.

House Joint Resolution 4 will now move to the Senate for consideration.

"Hunting and fishing are important parts of who we are as Hoosiers," said Bischoff. "It's imperative that we amend the state constitution to protect these rights so we can continue to enjoy these activities which have long been traditions in Indiana's culture."

Twelve states currently have the right to hunt and fish defined in their constitutions. The language has been added to counter what hunters feel are attempts by environmental groups to take away their hunting and fishing privileges.

"A lot of people have been concerned about having their rights to hunt and fish taken away from them and amending the state constitution to include these rights will protect sportsmen from being prosecuted," said Bischoff. "I am strongly committed to getting this legislation passed and I believe we will see this change made to our constitution in the near future."

The amendment would insert language guaranteeing the right to hunt, fish, and harvest game in Article 1 of the Indiana Constitution. Before the constitution can be officially amended to include this new section, it must be passed by two consecutive general assemblies and then approved by the public in a referendum. The soonest the amendment could be put up for a vote is 2008.